Indians in foreign jails

948. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Indian citizens working abroad and languishing in jails there;

(b) the reasons for their punishment; and

(c) the action taken by Government to get innocent persons released from jails?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) It is estimated that 4.5 million Indians are working and living abroad and approximately 7000 Indians are reportedly in foreign jails.

(b) The reasons for their imprisonment include—violation of labour laws, illegal stay, illegal immigration and civil and criminal offences.

(c) Indian Missions/Posts provide all possible assistance to Indian nationals in foreign jails. This assistance includes—getting them released wherever possible, meetings with these Indian nationals, ensuring that there is no miscarriage of justice, facilitating speedy trials and enabling proper living conditions and treatment in the prisons.

Payment of high rentals by Indian Missions

949. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of Indian Missions in other countries are paying phenomenally high rentals for the chancery office buildings etc. while the plots of lands leased there, are lying vacant for varying periods extending, reportedly, even up to forty four years and the financial allocations made therefor have been surrendered repeatedly year after year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and